

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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TO SECSTATE WASH DC 4550

C O N F I D E N T I A L OECD PARIS 35881

EXCON

COMMERCE OEA FOR MEYER

E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM

SUBJECT: FRENCH REGULATION OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS

1. DURING THE EXPORT CONTROL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING IN OCTOBER FRENCH CUSTOMS CHIEF DECOTE STATED THAT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE FRENCH LAW DID NOT REGULATE THE EXPORT OF TECHNICAL DATA OR SIMILAR TECHNICAL INFORMATION. US DEL SUBSEQUENTLY REQUESTED CONFIRMATION OF THIS STATEMENT FROM FRENCH COCOM DEL ALLEX. ALLEX REPLIED DECEMBER 3 INDICATING THAT WHILE FRENCH LAW DOES IMPOSE RESTRICTIONS AND CRIMINAL SANCTIONS ON THE EXPORT OF TECHNOLOGY OR DATA OF EQUIPMENT CONTROLLED UNDER THE FRENCH "LISTE DU MATERIAL DE GUERRE", THERE IS NO LEGISLATION CONTROLLING THE EXPORT OF TECHNOLOGY OR DATA WITH RESPECT TO OTHER COCOM EMBARGOED ITEMS. NEVERTHELESS, HIS AUTHORITIES ATTEMPT TO REGULATE SUCH EXPORTS ADMINISTRATIVELY. HE DOUBTED THAT ANY SOPHISTICATED FRENCH COMPANY WOULD PASS TECHNICAL DATA WITHOUT FIRST SEEKING FRENCH GOVERNMENT APPROVAL. TO DO SO WOULD RISK LOSING GOVERNMENT RESEARCH CONTRACTS AND GOVERNMENT RESEARCH FUNDS, HE SAID. GOVERNMENT APPROVAL WOULD, OF COURSE, BE GRANTED ONLY AFTER FRENCH COCOM OBLIGATIONS HAD BEEN COMPLIED WITH, HE ADDED.

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